THE GREAT CHINESE INVASION

BY FRANK M. EASTMAN.

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"It is possible to give free rein to the imagination, and to anticipate a flood of Chinese descending upon our coasts, as the Huns and Vandals poured down upon Rome."-Ex-Minister Seward's

"I said that we could easily compel the Chinese to grant good terms by means of a few ships of war; that, for example, we could deprive them altogether of salt by a few cruisers properly stationed. Napoleon replied: 'It would have been the worst thing you have done for a number of years, to go to war with an immense empire like China and possessing so many resources. You would doubtless at first succeed, take what vessels they have and destroy their trade, but you would teach them their own strength. They would be compelled to take measures to defend themselves against you and say: "We must try to make ourselves equal to this nation. Why should we suffer a people so far away to do as they please to us! We must build ships, we must put guns into them. We must render ourselves equal to them." They would, continued the Emperor, 'get artificers and shipbuilders from France and America, and even from London; they would build a fleet, and, in course of time, defeat you." -- From O'Meara's "Napoleon at St. Helena," Vol. 2, p. 29.

"The old opinion is pretty well got rid of that they [the Chinese] are at all a cowardly people when properly paid and efficiently led; while the regularity and order of their habits, which dispose them to peace in ordinary times, give place to a daring bordering on recklessness in time of war. Their intelligence and capacity for remembering facts make them well fitted for use in modern warfare, as do also the coolness and calmness of their disposition. Physically they are not so strong as Europeans, but considerably more so than most of the races of the East, and on a cheap diet of rice, vegetables, sait fish and pork they can go through a vast amount of fatigue, whether in a temperate or a tropical climate, where Europeans are ill fitted for exertion. Their wants are few; they have no caste prejudices, and hardly any appetite for intoxicating liquors. Being of a lymphatic and lymphatic-bilious temperament they enjoy a remarkable immunity from inflammatory diseases."-The Ever Victorious Army; a History of the Chinese Campaign under Lieutenant-general Gordon, London, the advantages of other lands are now ap-1858, p. 269.

"If she [Cnina] were to adopt the Christian civilization-were to establish schools and academies for the education of the officers and men of her army and navy, and were to make them feel that they were honored agents for the preservation of peace at home and to insure respect abroad-who could dispute the vast resources and strength of her people? With reform in her civil service; with a sentiment of a new national life; with liberty, a word yet unknown in her language, beating in the hearts of her citizens; with railroads and telegraphs leading to her frontiers; with troops armed with breech-loaders, organized on modern principles, and commanded by generals skilled in the art of war-to what seas might she not carry her standards?"-From Armies of Asia and Europe, Gen. Emory Upton. Chapter, Army of China. General Remarks, p. 31.

CHAPTER I.

The sentinel who was patrolling the seaward parapet of Fort Butler, at the entrance of Puget sound, suddenly paused in the midst of his beat and looked out intently over the gray waters of the Pacific, now beginning to sparkle under the rays of the half-risen sun, toward a misty speck just visible on the horizon. To the casual observer this object would have appeared like the smoke from some outgoing or incoming steamer, a sight by no means unusual off the entrance to that inland sea, whose harbors were filled with the shipping of all nations, but the sentinel eyed it, nevertheless, with interest. Gradually the slight mist which had obscured the view was dissipated, the light deepened, and in a few minutes the distant object could be discerned as a large steamer approaching the sound at a high rate of speed. The sentinel hesitated no longer, but called the corporal of the guard, who shortly appeared, took a scrutinizing look at the rapidly approaching vessel and hastened within the fortress, from which he returned accompanied by two officers, whose uniforms indicated them to be respectively a captain and a lieutenant of infantry. These officers held powerful field glasses, with which they proceeded to inspect the incoming ship.

"It's the Comet, sure enough," said the senior officer, after a few minutes' inspection, "and coming as though the old boy had kicked her. What can she be returning so soon for! She can't have been out more than two hundred miles."

"Hardly that, I should think," replied the other. "But isn't she spinning along, though! Beating her trial trip, I'll warrant you, and that was 29.4 knots."

"It couldn't be a mutiny, could it?" queried the first speaker. "No," he continued, answering his own question, "her flag is apeak all right. Besides mutinies are played out in these days. It cannot be possible that Macauley has already"-"There, she is signaling," interrupted the other as he hastened to the guard-house near the garrison flag-staff, and taking thence a signal-book began to note down and translate the signals as they were dis-The vessel was now near enough to be

clearly seen by the naked eye as one of the larger type of United States cruisers, apparently armored and bearing a heavy battery mounted in widely overhanging sponsons. Asshe approached she presented a sternly beautiful sight. Her long, slender hull, white as the wing of a sea-gull, her massive funnels of a jetty black, the delicate taper of her masts and spars, glitter of the polished brasswork about the quarter-deck and of the bright muzzles of her long steel guns ail combined to make hera beautiful marine picture. The jet before her prow burned like a golden flame, and innumerable sparkles arose from the slight wake which she left behind her. Although a heavy swell was rolling in she advanced upon an even keel. But there was an air of fearful earnestness about her, to which her headlong speed no doubt contributed, and which soon distracted the attention from the contemplation of her beauty to conjectures as to what fateful message she was bearing. On she came-silent, swift, resistless. Meantime the younger officer had been busily translating the signals which she had been rapidly displaying. Suddenly he uttered an exclamation. "Good heavens! See here, captain, please," he called to his companion, who

had been continuing his inspection of the ship. "For heaven's sake, look here." The officer addressed shut his glass, and, looking over the shoulder of his junior, while the later continued to receive and translate the residue of the message, read so much of it as had been written out. The effect upon the reader was evidently surprising. He started back with an expression of amazement, looked at the approaching ship, then at the message again, and finally emitted a long whistle.

"You must have got that wrong, Frank. You see it can't be. It-"No, sir. The message is all right," answered the other, as he directed the corporal to hoist the answering signal, "anyway, we will know in a moment, for the Comet is slowing up and evidently getting

ready to send off a boat. The Comet was, in fact, decreasing her speed, and the gig could be seen already manned at the davits, ready to be let fall as soon as the cruiser should lose her headway. In a few minutes, and before the vessel had come to a standstill, the boat was lowered and in another second was pulling rapidly towards the artificial landing by which the fort could be reached in fair weather from the sound side. The two officers hurried towards the miniature breakwater, and reached it just as the gig dashed up to the wharf. The stern-sheets were occupied by two officers in navai uniform. The elder, a fine-looking man of some forty-five years, landed in haste, his fine face bearing an expression of deep anxiety. Hastily clasping the hands of the

army officers, he inquired: "You got my message! "Yes, but could hardly believe we got it right. Then it is true that-"My God! yes, too true. Have you told

the commandant?" "No; we saw you were coming off, and waited to have the news confirmed." "Well, let us hurry up and wake him. There is no time to be lost. Not a mitute not a second. Great heavens! who would have believed it? A perfect Armada!" and with these words the captain, for the speaker was Captain Macauley, U. S. N., commanding the Comet, led the way to the fort, and was soon admitted to the quarters of the newly-awakened commandant. The two army officers, who may now be introduced as Capt. Douglas Hames and Lieut. Francis Fuller, pace 1 up and down in front

of their quarters discussing the news. "Well," said Haines, after a pause, "you are in more luck than I have been in. I was fifteen years getting my two bars. You'll likely get yours in the next two-perhaps

"I don't know about that," replied Fuller. "You have reached a rank from which you will gain advancement much quicker than I can from nine. But suppose," he con-tinued, laughing, "my straps shouldn't be worth anything after I get them?" "You mean"-

"Yes. Suppose miltary rank in this country should be indicated hereafter by the number of swords a man wears or the length of his queue; in other words, that We are conquered and subjugated." "Nonsense! These are not the days of Timour the Tartar. But here comes facauley with the colonel." As he spoke the persons named issued

from the commandant's quarters. The naval captain had evidently regained his composure, and was laughing and chatting with his companion as the two came out. "Just think, Macauley, you will go down

to history with Master Thomas Fleming, who discovered his Christian Majesty's

"Yes, and we resemble each other in further particulars, colonel. You remember

Fleming was a pirate." "Ah, I had forgotten that; but he did good service, nevertheless. Captain Haines," continued the commandant, "you have heard the news Captain Macauley has brought? Well, telephone the War Department at once, or stay! perhaps you had rather communicate the news to your department first, Macauley. Yes? Well, then, Haines, call up the War Department

after Macauley is through. Then prepare an official letter at once. Captain Haines, who was the post adjutant, saluted and conducted the naval officer to the telephone. The latter called up the Chicago Exchange, and in a few minutes more it was known in Washington that a Chinese fleet of more than one hundred vessels of the largest size known to modern naval science was off the Pacific coast of the United States. It was July 9, 1910, and war had been declared only the day before.

CHAPTER IL.

The telephonic messages and official letters having been dispatched Captain Macauley returned to his ship after accepting an invitation to dine with the commandant that evening, in which invitation Haines and Fuller were included. By this time it was 5 o'clock, the clear notes of the reveille rang out and the fort began to awake to life. The day was not an idle one, for, although the post was hardly more than one of observation, and utterly unfit to sustain an attack from any considerable force, its commander thought it his duty to take every possible precaution for its defense, though he expected to be ordered to abandon the fort at the first serious demonstration made against t. Temporary wooden buildings were therefore torn down and all materials of an inflammable nature carefully removed. The disappearing guns and their carriages were thoroughly overhauled. Lightningrods, which might indicate the location of the magazines, were stripped off The grass on the land side without the enceinte was closely cut down, and the orpedo system on the sound side was carefully inspected and tested. Everything, in fact, that could be done to secure the fortress was attended to, and when Captain Macauley came off from the Comet in the afternoon, having anchored his vessel at a convenient position within the sound while awaiting instructions from the Navy Department, he found the commandant in a very well-satisfied frame of mind. Dinner was served at 6 o'clock, and after the first cravings of appetite had been appeased conversation turned upon the engrossing topic of the day. "How did you escape them, Macauley?" inquired the commandant. "But I suppose

they have nothing as swift as the Comet.' "Indeed but they have, Colonel. They ore making fully twenty-eight knots an hour when we saw them, and that means that the slowest vessel of the fleet can keep that speed up. I doubt if there is a European navy to-day that can furnish a dozen vessels that can sail as a fleet at even twenty-six knots. If their slowest vessel can keep up a speed of twenty-eight knots, be sure that the fastest can overnaul any vessel we have. No, the truth is, I don't think they saw us. It was dark and my lookout in the foretop saw them before they could have risen our bull. I had all the lights put out, and as their left wing was about two miles from us. I doubt it they saw us. They were steering S. E. by E I had a straight run of it back, while their course was taking them south of it, so started as soon as we had sunk their

"You say their vessels were all of large "Yes, the largest ships I ever saw. The transports looked as though they might be of 20,000 tons each. Twice as big as the "How many troops would a ship of that

size carry-with ammunition and stores I "Why, a vessel of 20,000 tons ought to carry five or six thousand American or European troops and their stores, but Chinese can be packed in a way that no other people can, and I dare say those transports

carry from 8,000 to 9,000 troops each." "A whole division!" "Yes, I judge so. It would have been just as well if the wiseacres at Washington had investigated a little into the character of their enemy before they left matters assume the condition they are now in." "Are you well posted as to the present strength of the Chinese army, Captain

Macauley?" inquired Haines. "Why, yes; I presume I may say so. was on the Asiatic station for three years. and made something of a study or their military system at that time, as my attention had already been called to the subject by a letter written to me by a friend of mine, who had been on the station before me. The letter seemed to me so absurd at the time that I kept it as a curiosity, but recent events have verified its predictions to, a large extent. I hunted the letter up the other day, and have it with me. If Colonel Grant would like to hear it I will be pleased to read it to you.'

Colonel Grant readily assented, and the

table having been cleared and cigars lighted, Captain Macauley began to read. 'I am more and more impressed," wrote my friend, whose letter is dated at Hong Kong, "with the danger which threatens our civilization from the Chinese. Here we have, in a comparatively small territory \$600,000,-000 of human beings. The men make brave soldiers, despising hardships and death, and are capable of living on rations on which European soldiers would starve. Under a wise financial system China's money resources would be at least as great as those of any single country in the world. Its despotic government, wisely administered, could in time of war exert the great resources of the kingdom to the best possible advantage. You will object that numbers and money are no match for skill and discipline. To this I reply that military and naval tactics are now being reduced to an exact science, Military problems can now be worked out with almost the exactness of a mathematical proposition. Modern small arms and machine guns properly placed and served can keep up a fire that nothing can face. Modern high power ordnance can batter down any fortification that can be built. Under these circumstances the impetuous valor of the Caucasian and the perfection of his discipline are alike of small advantage as compared with the overwhelming numbers and the coolness and contempt for death of the

Chinese. Even if they were not naturally

arms have bad the effect of putting the best-drilled troops and the poorest something of an equality. saw years agone, in the Turco-Russian war, that half-drilled Turks armed with the old Remington rifle were often superior to the best Russian troops using an inferior weapon. Improved arms, the skill to use them and the cour age of troops being equal, the advantage would be on the side of that nation whose troops could be most easily fed and supported in the field, who would serve for the least pay, etc. As to generalship, China has already many skilled European officers in her pay, and could easily have many more. The people are skilled workmen, and, with a little instruction, could manufacture arms, ships and munitions of war at an expense onehalf below the cost of such articles in Eu-

rope and America. "You will say, granting that China is thus powerful, why should she wish to involve herself in war with us! I can only say that the migratory instinct is still among the Chinese. They are naturally nomads, or the ruling class once were. It was their early migrations, as you know, that forced the Huns upon Europe. Were they not naturally so inclined, the growth of a dense population in a limited area naturally creates a desire for migration or colonization. This has hitherto been repressed by their feebleness, the peaceable disposition of their rulers and the deserts and the mountains that shut them in. So long as their ports were shut to foreign commerce the migratory instinct might have been indefinitely repressed, but parent to them and they long for them. The emigration might have been slow and peaceful, but we have barred them out of the United States; they are oppressed wherever else they go, and this safety-valve is now practically closed. They are no longer weak, for modern inventions have made them the equals if not the superiors of any other nation, and they have sense enough to take advantage of the fact. They are no longer ignorant, and their rulers may not always be of a peaceable

disposition. "Do you know anything about Chinese tactics, Macauley?" interrupted the com-"Why, not much, Colonel," was the reply.

"Why do you ask?" "When I was a lad, I remember to have turn somersaults when making their charges, at the same time emitting most unearthly howls and shrieks, with the object of inspiring their enemies with horror and amazement. You don't know if that custom

"No," replied the Captain, laughing. "If I thought it did I would have my men practice at shooting on the wing," said the

"What follows," observed the naval officer, as he prepared to continue his reading, "is mainly statistical, but some of it may be new to you (I know it was to me), and so I'll read it, if agreeable to you." Universal consent was given, and he read as follows: In the year 1889 Kwang-sb, the young Emper-

or of China, reached the years of his majority and assumed the government, which up to that time had been administered by his mother as Empress Regent. The Emperor soon manifested a strong inclination for military studies and pursuits and in a short time gathered about him European and American soldiers of fortune skilled in the various branches of military and naval science. He also brought to his court many foreign inventors whose genius had been more or less neglected by their own governments. The Emperor had proved an apt scholar. Doing away with the antiquated corps of bannermen and the vanguard and flank divisions, he organized an imperial standing army of 100,000 men, armed, uniformed and equipped after European models. He founded arsenals and gun factories wherein small arms and field pieces of a new and still unknown pattern were manufactured in large quantities.

Pleased by the success achieved by the army named, the Emperor soon established a new and elaborate system modeled after that of Germany. The active army was made up of 2,000, 000 men, serving five years and then retiring into the Chiun-li, which corresponds to the Landwehr of the Germans. The Chiun-li consists of 10,000,-000 men. graduates of the active army, and is required to spend three months of each year in active service. Whang-li, or counterpart of the Landsturm, is constituted as in the German organization and has a strength of 20,000,000 men. The Chinese army, therefore, consisted of about 32,000,000 and an active, efficient strength of 12,000,000 men.

"This reorganization of the Chinese army," said Macauley, as he folded the letter he had been reading, "was not so radical as one might suppose. A comparatively recent author says that the methodical arrangement of the Chinese army would bear a comparison with any army in the world, and that all it lacks is "discipline and con-fidence in itself." He speaks of the army

before its reorganization. At this moment an orderly entered with dispatches for the commandant, which that officer, after excusing himself, proceeded to read. As he did so a look of amazement crept over his face, changing into an expression of almost utter stupefaction. Finally, with an effort, he recovered himself and read the dispatch:

Similar fleets have appeared off the Atlantic and gulf coasts. Remove your men and stores to Fort Sheridan, leaving a company for observation and police duty only. Report yourself to General Gregg at Fort Sheridan as soon as the transfer has been made.

"Three fleets?" gasped Captain Macauley. "Three fleets of a hundred ships and over! Talk about the invincible Armada! It was a plaything, a bauble, compared to this. If they fight only half as well as we do, we will have to haul our fleet inland if we want to keep any navy."

The commandant of the fort at once gave some command to the orderly to be transmitted to the officer-of-the-day, looking to the removal of the troops, and then turned to his guests with an air of regained

"Just what is our naval strength now, Macauley?" he inquired, "just how many ships have wef I haven't seen a naval register for four or five years."

"Why," was the reply, "we have about thirty cruisers of from 3,000 tons up to the size and tonnage of the Comet. There are five battle-ships that were first-class vessels ten years ago, but are behind the times now. Then there are twenty-five or six coast-defense vessels, some of them pretty fair ships, ten dynamite boats and about one hundred torpedo boats of all classes. Then of course, there are a lot of old-fashioned tubs twenty or thirty years old, but none of them can make more than eighteen knots an hour. They're good for cruisers in time of peace, but are practically useless in time of war. There are besides this two submarine boats of the Goubet model, but they are only effective against anchored vessels. Our navy would not be so despi-cable, comparatively, but for the fact that only ten of the cruisers can exceed a speed of twenty-five knots per hour, while only one of the battle-ships can log twenty-four, and the coast-defense vessels are not much swifter. Most of the torpedo boats can make twenty-seven knots, but they are fitted with old-fashioned Whitehead torpedoes that do not themselves make more than thirty knots. The dynamite boats may make twenty-three knots, but their range is limited to four miles, and there is no accuracy in using their guns at even that distance.' "But our vessels are well armored and

armed, are they not, Captain?" inquired

"Only fairly. The battle-ships have about twenty inches of composite armor; the harbor-defense ships about the same. These are armed with 150 and 115-ton Krupp guns. The cruisers vary from eight to twelve inches of armor and from 80 to 115-ton guns. The Comet's guns are 100 tons each and her armor is ten inches thick. So you see that our navy would have very little show against a European fleet armed with 250ton guns having three feet of armor and capable of steaming thirty knots an hour, and, as I have said, the Chinese fleet is probably fully as fast, if not faster, than any European one. I have no doubt it is just as well armed and armored."

"That is not a very encouraging report on naval affairs, I must admit," said the commandant, "but it shows a better condition of things with you than with us. How large do you think our army is!" "Fifteen thousand men," replied Macau-

ley, promptly.
"No, ten thousand. It was reduced to that number by act of 1895." "Ah, I was on the South Atlantic station that year and must have overlooked the reduction.

"Yes," continued the commandant, laughing, "that year the politicians discovered that a standing army of 15,000 men was a constant menace to the liberties of 110,000,000 people. Then that year was the first after the adoption of the woman's suffrage amendment to the Constitution, and every woman elected to Congress was down on the army. It was almost a won-der that it was not entirely abolished. Now here we have an army of 10,000 men. The State militia may furnish 150,000 or 200,000. Say we have 210,000 men opposed to 500,000 well-drilled and equipped Chinese already on this coast, and the Lord good soldiers, the improvements in small | only knows how many on the Atlantic and

gulf coasts. Of course, we will form armies after a time, but who can calculate the damage the enemy will do mean while?" With these words the commandant rose and the dinner party broke up.

CHAPTER III. Three days after the Chinese fleet had been sighted off Fort Butler, Captain Haines and Lieutenant Fuller, who had been ordered to make an investigation along the coast southward from the fort, accompanied by a small detachment of troops, were riding briskly along at a short distance from the seashore. On surmounting the crest of a small rise of ground which ran at a right angle to the ocean, these two officers, who were riding in advance of the detachment, were seen to halt abruptly, and then cautiously to retrace their steps. The troops were halted as they reached the position taken by the officers, and these latter, dismounting, advanced again slowly to the summit of the bill, arriving at which position they threw themselves upon the ground and began to inspect through their field-glasses some objects in their front, hidden from the troops by the elevation referred to. These objects were indeed of a novel and interesting nature. There, lying parallel to the shore, at a distance of, perhaps, a quarter of a mile, lay, stretching in a long line, the ships of the Chinese fleet, broadside to the shore and apparently anchored. No breath of wind was stirring, but the surf was rolling high upon the rocky and precipitous shore, and the position, if chosen as a place of disembarkation, seemed to have been selected with exceedingly poor judgment. The immense size of the ships could now be readily seen, and although Macauley's description of them had led the officers to expect large vessels, they were little pre-pared for the huge fabrics which they now

"Those ships are a thousand feet long if they are an inch," said Fuller, in an excited "Hardly that," replied Haines, as he scanned the nearest of them, "perhaps they may be 800 or such a matter. They're mon-

sters, anyway.' "Forty-one, forty-two, forty-three, forty-four," counted Fuller. "Forty-tive. There are forty-five of them in sight from here, and probably as many more around that bend in the shore, beyond that rise of ground there. If they carry anything read that it was the custom with them to | like the number of men Macauley thought, what a host of them there must be. I wonder if they think of landing here?"

"I do not see how they can," returned the other. "That is a wicked surf, and while they might get one or two boats through it would be impossible toland the whole force here, to say nothing of landing their stores and artillery. If a strong wind were to come up now, blowing on shore, their whole fleet would be in an ugly position. They do not seem to have steam up."

"Steam!" exclaimed the younger officer. "Do they use steam? I do not see any amoke-stacks, nor anything like them." "That's a fact. I do not either. They must use steam, however, I suppose. What else could they use? Perhaps they simply have gratings for the escape of the smoke, like the first monitor that was built in the war of the rebellion. She had no smoke-

stacks. While the officers were engaged in these speculations, at a signal which appeared from the largest vessel in sight, evidently the flagship, each ship was seen to lower a large boat, of a shape similar to that of a surf-boat, but evidently propelled by some other motor than oars, which at once set off for the shore, paying out as it went a thin cable of steel, as was evident from the way it ran out of the boat. These boats disappeared under the bluffs which here lined the shore, but soon after their disappearance the tightening of the cable indicated that they had safely landed. Each vessel

"I do not see what good that will do ueless they all mean to walk the tight-rope ashore," said Fuller. "We shall see," said the other. "In the meantime I will send off a dispatch to the fort. You keep watch here until I return," saying which he returned to the spot where their escort had been left, and hastily writ-

ing a message directed a sergeant to return

was now, therefore, connected to the shore

by a tightly stretched steel hawser.

with it to the fort with all speed. On the captain's return to his companion a noticeable change had come over the appearance of the ships. From the center of the mastless deck of each of them arose a dome-shaped object of the color of silver, and with the brightness and lustre of that metal. These objects grew constantly larger, and now began to assume a disklikeshape. Slowly but steadily they grew catil they assumed an enormous magnitude and shape somewhat similar to that of a sun-fish; in other words, they seemed to be about 500 feet long, 150 feet high and 100 feet through. They floated almost motionless in the breathless atmosphere. "Balloons!" exclaimed Haines. "But, great heavens, what balloons they are!" "What do you suppose makes them glit-ter so?" inquired Fuller.

"Some kind of varnish they put on them to keep the gas from escaping, I suppose," replied the aptain. "But what makes them keep that shape? It does not matter much how you cut the material of a balloon; when the gas gets into it it will take about the shape that our shaped as regularly as a ship."

ordinary balloons take, but these things are "By jove!" exclaimed Haines, "I believe that accounts for the luster of the machines. They are made of some kind of

"But what kind of metal would be light enough to use for the skin of a balloon? "Why, I do not know. It might be aluminium. That is very light and can be rolled out as thin as gold or silver, and is much tougher than either. If it were stiffened inside with a light framework it might answer. Perhaps they have discovered some way of extracting the metal cheaply enough to put it to such uses. It has been predicted for the past forty years that aluminium would be the metal of the future. But how they can stow the balloons away on shipboard I do not see. You cannot roll up metal the way you can cloth." "No, but they evidently have some way of doing it. I have no doubt the things are made of some metal, as you say.'

The conversation ceased, as the attention of the two officers became engrossed with the beauty, novelty and majesty of the scene before them. It was still early in the morning. The mists had not yet ceased to arise from the bosom of the broad ocean. In the foreground, heavy jets of foam and spray arose from the breaking surf. and were flung high above the cliffs which concealed the beach. Beyond them lay the long line of huge vessels, with the monstrous balloons towering above them, showing iridescent hues in the morning sun. while still beyond in the misty background could be seen the gigantic forms of the battle-ships which were slowly moving about in the offing to protect the transports if it became necessary. Strange sounds of voices delivering orders in an unknown tongue came from the vessels, noises as of the working of machinery of an unfamiliar nature floated over the water, evolutions of the nature and object of which the officers were ignorant could be seen being performed on the ships, while dispatchboats of a peculiar shape and almost incredible speed were seen darting among the long line of motionless vessels.

"A good sea breeze now would take those things back to China," muttered Haines. Hardly had he made the remark before a light wind did set in, blowing seaward, and the balloons could be seen careening to the west and tugging at their fastenings. "Ah ha," he continued, "now the fun be-

No sooner had he made this remark, however, than the pointed ends of the balloons were seen to swing shoreward, thus presenting their smallest surface to the wind. and the areostats once more assumed their perpendicular positions.

At this moment a gun was fired from the flagship, and at its sound every balloon rose slowly from the deck of its ship, attained a height of about one hundred feet, and began advancing toward the shore with a speed of perhaps ten miles per hour. In a couple of moments, therefore, they had reached the shore, descending gradually as they approached it, and only the upper portions of the balloons could now be seen rising above the bluffs which concealed the lower portions, their cars evidently having landed on the beach. "Good heavens! How was that done?"

gasped Fuller, as soon as he could recover from the surprise which this movement had excited in him. "How on earth did they do "Didn't you see?" inquired Haines, laugh-

ing quietly at the surprise of his companion. "Those cables were taken into the cars of the balloons, passed over a drum there that was worked by some power or another, and they just wound the machine ashore. Very ingenious, if they are Chinamen. How many do you think there were in each of the care?"

. "I have no idea," was the reply. "It looked as though there might be a regiment in each one. Shouldn't you think so?"
"Something like that. At this rate it won't take them long to land troops, stores, artillery and everything. Then the bal-

loons go back for more.' As he spoke the balloons returned with the same celerity with which they had landed, and in a few moments more were returning with another load of troops. Meanwhile a large detachment of the enemy appeared upon the plain below the officers, having ascended the bluffs, and began to scatter in light shirmishing formations in all directions, some of them rapidly approaching the position where our officers were stationed.

"This won't do," said Haines, quietly. "I'll send our men back three or four miles on our trail, and you and I can go hide in that old oak tree in that cooley there. They'll hardly put their pickets out as far as this, and if they do we will have to run the risk. We cannot go back without more information than we've got now. Besides, this is a great chance, and we must make

the most of it." The men were accordingly sent off at a brisk pace, under the command of a trusty sergeant, to camp at a place designated on the back trail, and the officers, moving under the cover of the little mound which had sheltered the detachment, gained the cooley or ravine referred to and were soon snugly ensconced in the thick foliage of the oak tree. They had not been secreted long, however, before they could hear the approach of the enemy; and soon a thin wave of their skirmishers had come up to and passed beyond them. Through the interstices of foliage they could plainly see the invading soldiers. These were uniformed and equipped very much after the European manner, with a single exception.

"Did you ever see a weapon like that be-fore?" whispered Fuller to his companion. "No, I never did," was the reply: "that is a most extraordinary-looking piece. It won't do to laugh at it, however, for if it is as much of an improvement on our guns as the vessels are on our ship, it must be a terror. But it certainly does not look much more like a gun than it does like a warm-

ing-pan." Meanwhile, as could readily be seen from their perch in the tree, the debarkation of the troops went steadily forward and was apparently finished in a couple of hours, as the balloons after that time appeared to be carrying nothing but stores, munitions and artiflery. In the meantime the broad plain below the two officers began to swarm with the immense numbers of the invaders. The Air of Impertinence Among Ameriplain was apparently five miles square. cans." These hopes, however, were Through it ran a small rivulet in a deep and rocky channel. A working party of perhaps a thousand men was detached from the troops landed from the nearest ships, and the construction of a dam across this stream, as well as of several bridges over it, was at once begun. Timber was plentiful at a short distance back from the shore, and, with the large number of workmen employed, these works were finished in a surprisingly short time. The waters of the rivers rose rapidly above the dam, and an ample supply of water for even a larger host was thus secured. The outlines of a camp had in the meantime been marked upon the plain, and in the course of a few hours the space assumed the appearance of a huge encampment. In the midst of the tented city arose a huge pavilion, above which hung the great black and yellow dragon flag of the Chinece empire, while from a lower staff flaunted a swallow-tailed banneret, bearing the device of the Indian siger. This was the tent of the commander of the army, and the smaller flag was his personal

"If the balloons are of metal," said Fuller, in a low voice, "those tents are, too. They "Very likely they are," was the reply. "If you can make metallic tents as light as canvas ones, of course the former will be the better, if they can be packed as readily, and I suppose they manage to do that somehow. But do you suppose this is the only use they make of their balloous?" "Why, no; I should not suppose so. I do not see why they cannot use them as baggage wagons. They can lay a cable along their line of march easily enough, and the balloons can then pull themselves along it. the last one reeling up the cable and taking it along with it. That would beat mule trains all to pieces," continued Fuller, whose memory recalled many vexatious experiences with mule trains in Alaska.

"Yes, and if they have any way of laying a cable sufficiently fast I don't see why they cannot transport troops with great rapidity upon them. They ought to be able to make two or three hundred miles in the twenty-four hours-pretty nearly as much as could be made by freight trains." Shortly after these remarks had been made, the two officers received an ocular demonstration of the manner in which the Chinese laid the cables for their balloons on terra firma. A tall tricycular machine, which had just been landed from one of the nearest ships, now started and ran rapidly across the plain and up the sides of the tallest hill in the vicinity of the camp. This machine had a front wheel thirty feet in diameter and two rear wheels of perhaps half that size. Between the two rear wheels was a large reel, from which it paid out in its progress a light but strong steel eable. The officers were unable to detect the nature of the motor which propelled the mechanism, but imagined it to be electricity conveyed along the cable to the machine. The contrivance had an apparent speed of twenty miles an hour, and climbed the somewhat precipitous sides the hill referred to with apparent ea and swiftness. The cable having been laid, a balloon passed swiftly along it to the summit of the hill, from which position it arose to a height of several hundred feet, at which

"That makes a convenient signal-sta-tion," muttered Haines. "The cable is, of course, insulated, and they can ase it for telephonic purposes. Very convenient. hope they won't see our men from that ele-

Several hours passed, and the camp having now been practically completed, the American officers observed a gathering of the troops below them as if for a grand review. The whole vast army was drawn up in a hollow square, facing inward. In making this formation the troops were faced inward at division front, with a depth of three divisions. Even with ranks of this great depth the space surrounded by the square was more than half a mile on each side. In the center of this space, as our officers could see by means of their excellent field glasses, was placed an altar having upon it various objects, some of which could be made out as candles, a censer and several cups. An officer, whose rich robes and the deference paid to whom indicated him as the commander of the army, knelt before the altar holding the staff of the great dragon flag, which had been removed from his pavilion, in one hand. Three sticks of lighted incense were handed him by an officer in the garb of a priest. These the general reverently deposited on the altar between two lighted candles. Kneeling again before the altar, he bowed his head three times. Some wine was then handed him from the altar, which he received stil kneeling, and poured it upon the ground Another cup of wine was then dashed on the flag, while the priestly-looking Chinaman shouted some words inaudible to our officers." The whole army, which had remained kneeling through this entire ceremony, now arose with a shout and breaking into divisions returned rapidly to their respective quarters of the camp. The ceremony, as our officers aftewards learned, is known as the worshiping of the standard, and is performed at the manguration of every important military undertaking. It was now late in the afternoon, and

Haines and Fuller were suffering with hunger, neither having eaten since early in the morning. It was useless, however, to think of leaving their hiding-place until night, as the pickets of the enemy were all about them. They therefore waited impatiently for the friendly cover of darkness. At about 6 o'clock in the evening all the transports in sight got under way, turned their sterns to the shore and set off on a course due west at a rate of speed which seriously diminished Fuller's esteem for his favorite Comet "Going back for more mon-eyed lepers, I suppose," growled Haines, whom fasting and his cramped position in the tree had ren-dered irritable. "I suppose they mean to live on the country, and do not need any base of supplies. There ought to be rate and mice enough in the country to feed

It now began to grow dark, and in a short time the two men silently descended from their tiresome perch and wearily made their way along the bottom of the valley until well beyond the Chinese lines, and then, with hastening steps, took up the trail to the camp of their men, which they reached in safety.

CHAPTER IV.

While the events already narrated were taking place at Fort Butler affairs were not stagnant in other portions of the great re-"The proclamation made by the master of ceremonies, translated, is as follows: "Unfurling the flag, victory is obtained; the cavairy advancing, merit is perfected."

public. When war was first declared a shout of laughter went up from all over the Union. War with the Chinese! A contest with the almond-eyed gentlemen whom we had ourselves intimidated in the past, whom England had twice whipped, whom France had defeated in Tonquin, whose people we had shut out of our country on account of their notorious and absurd peacefulness! On the second day after the declaration of war, however, on the receipt of the news from Fort Butler, the laughter subsided, and on the evening of that day, as the ar-rival of the hostile fleets off the gulf and Atlantic coasts was announced, the last vestige of a smile had disappeared and the people of the United States were fully awake

to the seriousness of their position. The United States, at this juncture, could not even offer the poor excuse of Napoleon III during the Franco-Prussian war, "I have been deceived," when it found itself unprepared at the beginning of a great struggle. With its one hundred millions of population, its vast wealth and broad domain, it had never contemplated an attack. In time of peace it had not prepared for war, because it had never believed in the possibility of one. After the first few days, however, the country regained its courage, and, as if by magic, all over the land began the recruiting and drilling of troops, the manufacture and purchase of arms and muni-tions, the equipping and arming of mer-chant steamers and all the variety of prep-aration which war makes necessary. Public meetings were held everywhere. Citizens' committees, sanitary commissions and la-dies' aid societies were organized in every

It was attempted to send special embas-sadors abroad to secure the aid and alliance of foreign powers. These ministers were, however, intercepted by the Chinese blockading fleets and returned to their own country. They finally made their way to Europe through Canada, in English bottoms, which the Chinese fleets respected. Their missions, however, as it subsequently turned out, were wholly unsuccessful, From the court of Saint James high hopes of a favor-able response had been entertained, as our minister at that court had been recently highly complimented by the King upon his essay, recently read before the Senate of the University of Manchester, of which he was the chancellor, entitled "On a Certain that a Chinese army of 2,000,000 men was lying on the borders of England's Indian possessions and dependencies ready to move at the first announcement of an English alliance with the United States. Nicholas IV, whose Siberian policy had been severely criticised in America, declined an American alliance, and other European governments refused assistance. In brief, all hope of a European alliance had to be abandoned, and the country had to nerve itself to go through the ordeal alone. A special session of Congress was at once called, and the necessary acts for raising 2,000,000 volunteers and a loan of \$3,000,-000,000 were passed. Every preparation was made for what it was now realized would be a long and doubtful struggle. At length, when the first excitement and the bustle of earlier preparations were partially over, people began to take time to inquire what causes had led a nation so pacific as China to engage in an expensive and distant foreign war. These causes were as varied as they were numerous-to-wit, a restless, migratory feeling recurring after the lapse of centuries to a nomadic nation; indignation at their exclusion from the United States in the past, and at the denial of their present demand for pecuniary satisfaction for the robbery and murder of Chinamen in America, covering a long period of time, and involving the lives and property of more than one hundred thou-

sand of their countrymen. Another cause of the war was the importation of opium into China from the United States. About the year 1888 it was ascertained that the poppy could be as easily and profitably cultivated in a large area of the southern portion of the United States as in India. The production soon became considerable, and the quality of the product was so superior as to compete with and finally drive from the market Indian opium, the United States supplying finally practically the whole demand of the Chipese market. The Emperor, shortly after his accession, had shown himself fully alive to the evils of the opium traffic and had, by imposing high licenses on retailers of the drug, sought to reduce its sale to the minimum. Mindful of the opium war of 1839, he did not at once prohibit the importation of the commodity, but it was no secret at Pekin that such was his ultimate intention, and a diplomatic correspondence covering many years had been carried on with the United States upon this topic. The latter government, however, had insisted upon its treaty rights, and even vaguely threatened war in case the importation of so important a product was prohibited by China. Thus, though no such prohibition had been announced, a feeling of bitterness towards the United States had been engenered in the breasts of the more ad-

vanced statesmen of China. Among other causes of the war was the alleged dishonesty of an American syndicate which had contracted to supply the Chinese government with aereophones, and who, instead of supplying the latest pattern, as called for in the specifications, furnished an old model which was practically ineffective at a greater distance than ten miles. The agents of the company, it is true, had been promptly beheaded, and one of the directors, who had been unable to make his escape in season, had been compelled to commit hara-kiru (improperly spelled hari-karı)-being the first Caucasian to undergo this ordeal-but the Emperor and his advisers were, nevertheless, much

Another casus belli was the following: A

powerful awakening upon the subject of re-

exasperated by this incident?

ligion had been exciting the Buddhist priesthood about this time or a little earlier, and an active zeal for missionary work was soon engendered. The publication in the United States, at this juncture, of a certain class of literature, of which "The Slow or the Defunct" was a leading type, had the effect of turning the eyes of the enthusiastic priests upon the United States as a field most ripe for missionary work, and their influence was therefore brought to bear upon the Emperor to induce him to bear into America the pure morals of Buddha and Confucius. Their efforts were not without their effect upon the mind of the Emperor. There were many other causes leading up to the invasion of the United States, but the immediate cause was the following: At the beginning of President Whelpford's administration John Y. Mullender, of New York," was nominated and confirmed as minister to China. He had at once gone to his post. Some months afterwards, in June, 1910, the Chinese minister at Washington presented dispatches from his home government requesting Mr. Mullender's recall. Secretary of State Runner B. Laine demanded the reason of the request. The Chinese minister replied that Mullender was persona non grata to the government to which he was accredited, and that this fact alone should suffice to secure his reball. Secretary Laine, in his note of June 21, 1910, inquired if the Chinese government was aware that Mr. Mullender was a third cousin of the President. On the same date the minister replied that the fact had not been known, and he regretted to hear it. He renewed his request for the recall of Mr. Mullender. Two days later he submitted evidence taken before her Britannic Majesty's consul at Hong Kong to the effect that Mullender was a man of coarse and brutal manners and indecorous life; that he had thrice claimed his privilege to exemption from arrest; that on one occasion he had lighted a cigar in the presence of the Emperor and on another he had expectorated in a temple, which had thus been wholly and forever defiled. Some days after Secretary Laine showed in a vigorous note that Mr. Mullender had successfully passed the civil-service examination required of can-didates for diplomatic positions (act of March 3, 1898, State, at Large, Vol. 35, p. 190,) and had satisfactorily demonstrated his knowledge of the greatest common divisor and the least common multiple. It was idle to say that such a man, related as he was, was incompetent for the position he filled. The Secretary apprehended that this would conclude the correspondence. The correspondence, however, was continued on the next day by a renewed demand for the recall of Mr. Mullender. One week later the request was formally refused. (State Papers, 2d Series, Tome 25, p. 765.) Four days afterward Mr. Mullen-der was forcibly placed on a Chinese war vessel at Canton, and soon thereafter landed at San Francisco. On the day of his debarkation the Chinese minister presented his Emperor's declaration of war and asked for his passports, which were promptly issued. Thus, and for these reasons, began the

war of the Chinese Invasion. [TO BE CONTINUED NEXT SUNDAY.]

It is said that there are 15,000 brass bands in this country, with 150,000 performers.